

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 170823

44

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 PRS-01 OMB-01 /063 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER:AVW

8/28/73 21741

APPROVED BY EA/TB:JOHN B. DEXTER

----- 073041

O 281454Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 170823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: US FORCES IN THAILAND

IN CONNECTION WITH THANOM'S 28 AUGUST PRESS CONFERENCE,
YOU MAY BE INTERESTED INFOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM A NON-
VERBATIM RECORD OF DOD SPOKESMAN FRIEDHEIM'S 27 AUGUST
PRESS BRIEFING.

FRIEDHEIM: LET ME CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE THAILAND
MAP THAT WE'VE PREPARED FOR YOU THAT TELLS YOU THE BASES
AND THE NUMBER OF US PERSONNEL, NUMBER OF US AIRCRAFT
THAT WILL BE WITHDRAWN IN THE FIRST INCREMENT OF THE PHASE-
DOWN IN THAILAND. SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE WILL BE ENROUTE
HOME THIS WEEK. SOME OF THEM, OF COURSE, WILL COME BACK
TO THE US; SOME WILL GO BACK TO THEIR HOME STATIONS IN
THE PACIFIC BUT WE WILL HAVE SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE ON THEIR
WAY HOME THIS WEEK.

Q: THIS WEEK, IS THAT THE NEW THING YOU JUST
TOLD US?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 170823

A: THE SECRETARY DID DISPATCH THE ORDERS OVER

THE WEEKEND FOR THE PACKING AND WITHDRAWAL TO BEGIN. WE EXPECT SOME OF THEM TO BE ENROUTE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND THAT WE WILL THEN CONTINUE UNTIL WE COMPLETE THAT. AS YOU KNOW, THE JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES INDICATED THAT THERE BE FURTHER TALK. I BELIEVE IT WAS THE 7TH OF SEPTEMBER ON SOME FURTHER WITHDRAWALS AND SCHEDULES.

Q: HOW MANY WILL BE COMING HOME OF THE TROOPS THAT ARE COMING OUT?

A. THE BULK OF THE MARINES, WHICH IS ABOUT 2,100 OUT OF THE 3,500, WILL GO BACK TO BASES IN THE PACIFIC. I CAN'T BE ANY MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT RIGHT NOW BUT MOST OF THE AIR FORCE PEOPLE ARE UNITS THAT ARE TDY FROM HOME BASES HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THEY WILL BE COMING BACK HERE.

Q: HOW MANY OF THEM THEN?

A. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 3,500 AND 2,100.

Q: 1400 OF THE AIR FORCE COMING HOME, RIGHT?

A: RIGHT.

Q. IS IT CLEAR NOW FROM THE PATTERNS OR YOUR PLANNING THAT YOU'LL DRAWDOWN ALL SEVEN OF THEM BEFORE ANY ARE CLOSED OR YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CLOSE A FEW FIRST?

A. OF COURSE, WE HAVE A SPECIAL SITUATION AND I THINK YOU ALL KNOW THAT THIS MARINE BASE AT NAM PHONG WHICH IS A MORE AUSTERE BASE, SHALL WE SAY, THAN SOME OF THE OTHERS AND THE MARINES WENT IN THERE TEMPORARILY. AT THAT BASE WE HAVE A GREATER DESIRE TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT OF THERE WHEN THEY'RE NO LONGER NEEDED AND PERHAPS WE'LL BE ABLE TO BRING THAT TO A CARETAKER STATUS OR PERHAPS CLOSE IT DOWN, ON A PRIORITY THAT WOULD BE AHEAD OF THE OTHERS WHICH ARE MORE PERMANENT FACILITIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 170823

Q: DID YOU SAY ALL THE MARINES WILL LEAVE THE FIRST INCREMENT?

A: NO, I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE ALL OF THEM. I THINK THERE'LL STILL BE SOME PHASING DOWN OF THAT BASE.

Q: WHY DID YOU SAY 1400 OF THE AIR FORCE?

A: THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 2100
MARINES THAT YOU HAVE THERE--

Q: HOW MANY MARINES ARE YOU LEAVING?

A: I'LL CHECK THAT FOR YOU. I THINK THERE WOULD
BE A FEW LEFT THERE. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DON'T COME TO A
COMPLETE CLOSURE OF THAT BASE IN THIS FIRST INCREMENT
BUT YOU COME PRETTY CLOSE.

Q: DO ALL AIRPLANES LEAVE?

A: I'LL HAVE TO CHECK THAT FOR YOU. I SUSPECT
THAT THEY PROBABLY DO.

END EXCERPTS- RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, PRESS CONFERENCES, TROOP CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE170823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JBDXTER:AVW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730810/aaaaahii.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US FORCES IN THAILAND IN CONNECTION WITH THANOM'S 28 AUGUST PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: MARR, TH
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005